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SUBJECT Training and Maneuvers of the  
23rd AAA Division

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## TRAINING AND MANEUVERS

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## A. GARRISON TRAINING

1. Since all members of Source's unit were occupied at least eight hours a day with guard duty, all garrison training was of a haphazard nature. Those who were off duty were supposed to undergo training in individual arms, calisthenics, close order drill, and political subjects. Of the 14 EM in Source's section, only about seven would be involved in garrison training at any one time, with the exception of any training that was given in the unit building where it was possible to assemble most of the EM.

2. All training was conducted on section level so far as possible. Most of the time only seven or eight men were present. Due to the fact that the unit was operational, only general subjects were given.

All political training was given within the unit area, and was conducted by Capt. (fnu) POPOV, CO of the Admin. Svcs. Sec, Div. Hq, 23d AAA Div. It was given twice a week for two-hour periods. Usually the off-duty chauffeurs from Div. Hq, 23d AAA Div., formed with Source's unit for political training.

All close order drill was given within the courtyard of Source's unit. There was no chemical training, infantry tactical training, or special unit training.

Weather permitting, [redacted] section were marched by the section leader to an area on the bank of the Danube River (see Encl. A) to undergo training in various military subjects. Generally speaking, the entire group malingered and went swimming or fishing, or slept. The CO of the section was not particularly interested in this garrison training. He told the EM that he was concerned mainly that the EM perform their guard duties properly and that all political training be properly adhered to. Military manuals were always taken to the training area but were only available in the event someone came to inspect the training. The section CO never inspected training in this area.

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[redacted] with his individual weapon, the PPSH. During basic training (Jul. '52 - Sep. '52) he fired three rounds from the PPSH at 100 yds. on a green silhouette target, scoring two hits. During his service in Austria he received some preliminary rifle instruction on the PPSH. This was given during rainy day schedules and conducted in the section area. During the summer of 1953 he fired one round unofficially from his PPSH. That was the extent of [redacted]

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[redacted] to the training conducted within the AAA regiments. The only information he could give was that he sometimes saw an entire AAA gun crew doing gun drill. He had no other details.

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All garrison training of the 64th AAA Regt, KORNEUBURG (4821N-1620E), 23d AAA Div., was conducted within the regimental caserne. The firing range in KORNEUBURG (see Encl. A) was used for all small arms firing.

50X1 [redacted] KORNEUBURG, 23d AAA Div., firing AAA pieces on the firing range (see Encl. A). The AAA guns had a subcaliber device mounted on the barrel for this firing, and fired small caliber rounds up to 400 yards. 50X1 Source was not allowed on the firing range and observed this from a distance. 50X1 [redacted]

[redacted] firing batteries of the 23d AAA Div. went either to ALLENTSTEIG (4840N-1520E) or APETLOM (4735N-1650E) to fire actual AA shells. 50X1 [redacted]

3. The following daily training schedule was supposed to be adhered to by the off-duty personnel of Source's unit:

Reveille	-	0700-0800
Breakfast	-	0800-0825
March to training area	-	0830-0925
Training	-	0930-1255
Return to unit area	-	1300-1355
Dinner	-	1400-1500
Organized athletics	-	1500-1700
Compulsory sleep	-	1700-1900
Free time	-	1900-Supper
Supper	-	2000 or 2100
Free time	-	2100-2300
Roll call and taps	-	2300

This schedule was not followed whenever any training was given in the unit area, such as political training, close order drill, or inclement weather training.

During inclement weather, the section leader normally would lecture from the following manuals and pamphlets:

- Title: Close Order Drill (Stroyevoy Ustav)
- Title: Interior Guard (Ustav Garnizonno-Karaulnoy Sluzhby)
- The PPSH pamphlet (title unk.)
- The TT revolver pamphlet (title unk.)

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Saturdays were used for care and cleaning of equipment, quarters, and the section area. Inspections were normally conducted by the section leader. Officers conducted inspections on rare occasions.

[redacted] on training schedules within the 23d AAA Div. He knew only that there were compulsory organized athletics for the EM on Sundays.

4. [redacted] the section leader, Jr. Sgt. (fnu) KOCHETKOV,, was responsible for conducting most of the training. In rare instances officers of the section conducted an inspection. All political lectures were given by Capt. POPOV.

5. Training inspections were only of a token nature. On rare occasions [redacted] of the section, would check on the training that [redacted] on the Danube River bank. The EM would give the appearance of being occupied with training, then would go back to sleeping, fishing, or swimming after the officer departed. When training was conducted in the unit area, the unit CO would occasionally drop in for a few minutes. Generally speaking, all the training was a farce. The EM slept through most of the classes because of the heavy schedule of guard duty in addition to classes.

A weapons inspection was conducted once during the summer of 1953. A Maj. (fnu) LEBEDEV (assignment unk), Div Hq, 23d AAA Div, checked all the weapons that the section possessed. There were no discrepancies. [redacted] was forbidden to break down weapons any further than rifle stripping; consequently the inspection was rather cursory.

[redacted] that the annual inspection team from MOSCOW spent the entire month of Jan. 54 inquiring into all phases of training in the 23d AAA Div. This team did not inspect his unit. The team was particularly interested in the four- to seven-day maneuver held by the 23d AAA Div during Jan. 54, in which defense against atomic attack was stressed. [redacted] on the size, scope, or particulars of this maneuver.

6. Although training deficiencies were many within his own particular section, there was no pressure from higher headquarters to correct them. The CO of his section was only concerned that the EM perform guard duty satisfactorily and carry out political training properly.

[redacted] from Div. Hq, 23d AAA Div, that the inspection team from MOSCOW observed atomic warfare defensive training conducted during a four- to seven-day maneuver by the 23d AAA Div. in Jan. 54 either in ALLENTSEIG or APETION. The division [redacted] considered satisfactory. [redacted] team was not too impressed and found much fault with the exercise, but source could give no details on this information.

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50X1 7. [redacted] air-ground support, liaison or recognition systems, new or old antitank weapons, artillery support, tank-infantry cooperation, or new weapons.

50X1 8. [redacted] on specialized training:

50X1 a. [redacted] on a motor march or on maneuvers and could give no information on motor moves, CPXs, or engineer bridging capabilities.

50X1 b. [redacted] Div. Hq., 23d AAA Div., trained separately but could offer no details. 50X1 information on officer training. His section leader, a junior sergeant, never attended any separate training.

50X1 c. [redacted] particulars on passive defense for air attack, although he knew that "Lokatorschiki" (Locators) and "Prozhektoristy" (Searchlight Operators) existed at Div. Hq., 23d AAA Div.

d. The following procedure was practiced by his section in training for defense against attacks by Western Powers:

Immediately after receiving an alert order, each man in the section was to get into full field combat readiness, which included:

1. Combat uniform
2. Individual weapon
3. Overcoat roll
4. Knapsack

All the drivers were to start vehicles and be ready to move out. All the guard posts were to be increased by one man. All the secret documents were to be loaded on one of the vehicles under the supervision of Jr. Lt. Antonina Ivanovna MAKAROVA, the secretary-typist of the section. The section never went on a road march or left the area during any of the alerts.

50X1 These alerts were normally held during the spring and fall inspections. [redacted] in three alerts in 1953. His section participated only in division level alerts. In the AAA regiments, alerts were held more often and for the most part were held during the night. 50X1 details on the alerts in these units.

50X1 e. [redacted] political training was of a nature to incite hatred and contempt for the Western Powers. During political lectures students were rated for their answers. Political training was inspected along with other training during Jan, '54 by the MOSCOW inspection team. 50X1

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that the team asked a soldier in the 36th AAA Regt. the following question during a political lecture: "Why are the Americans and their Western gangsters our enemies?" A student answered: "Because they are ringing us with bases, inciting the peace-loving nations against us, and are war-mongers." The inspection team rated the particular unit with a "5" (superior) for this answer.

f. [ ] never received any chemical or germ warfare training in the army.

g. For defensive training against atomic bombing see report [ ]

h. [ ] did not participate in any night training. The regiments of the 23d AAA Div. sometimes were gone from the caserne areas during the night, presumably on night training, but he could give no details.

i. [ ] airborne training.

j. [ ] was never taught that the Soviet soldier was to live off the country in combat.

k. Upon completing basic training and taking the oath, [ ] they were all considered combat ready as individuals. He could give no answer as to the time required to make a unit combat ready.

l. [ ] what factors were used to determine a unit's combat readiness.

m. [ ] how much familiarization firing with other than individual arms was done by the average soldier, but he was positive that it was more than he had. Besides firing one or two rounds from his individual weapon (PPSh) in the summer of 1953, [ ] instruction and training on the TT revolver and the DT machine gun, but never fired them. [ ] familiarization firing with other weapons was stressed only in line units.

9. The 23d AAA Div. conducted an NCO school in STOCKERAU (4823N-1613E). [ ] was of six months' duration. Almost all graduates were graduated as privates first class, and occasionally a student was graduated as a junior sergeant. [ ] information on the courses, scope of instruction, or on other particulars.

[ ] school was also conducted by the 23d AAA Div. in STOCKERAU. He had no details on this school.

10. Newly inducted enlisted men underwent political training as a group separate from the rest of their own sections for a two or three month period. After that all training was given together to all troops in his section. [ ] any reason for the separate political lectures.

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11. To the best of [redacted] received basic training in the USSR only.

12. Basic training lasted two months. [redacted] any change in the duration of basic training.

13. There was no unit training in his section. All training was haphazard and was given to the largest group of off duty personnel that could be assembled (see subpar A 2, above).

[redacted] on unit training conducted in the regiments of the 23d AAA Div.

[redacted] and technicians in Div. Hq, 23d AAA Div, such as radio operators, signal men, radar men, searchlight operators, and reconnaissance troops, were trained separately in their own particular assignment, but he could give no details.

During basic training subjects were given at the following levels:

<u>Battery</u>	<u>Platoon</u>	<u>Section</u>
Political lectures	Close order drill	Bayonet
	Political	Weapons assembly and disassembly (PPSh)
	Physical conditioning	Grenade practice
	First aid	

B. SUMMER TRAINING AND MANEUVERS

1. [redacted] no information on field training of any [redacted] the 36th AAA Regt. went to the field, source noticed that one AAA battery usually remained in the caserne. Portions of Div. Hq, 23d AAA Div, also accompanied subunits of the division whenever these units left for the field. He could give no details. His unit never accompanied any portions of the 23d AAA Div. to the field.

2. [redacted] on equipment and weapons left at the home station.

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3. [redacted] of the 23d AAA Div. traveled either to ALLENTSTEIG or to APETLON for maneuvers or for firing actual AAA rounds. During Jan.'54 the 64th AAA Regt., the 36th AAA Regt., and headquarters elements of the 23d AAA Div. went to one of the above-mentioned areas to participate in a maneuver. [redacted] 50X1  
by train. The equipment was loaded on flat cars in KORNEUBURG for the move. [redacted]

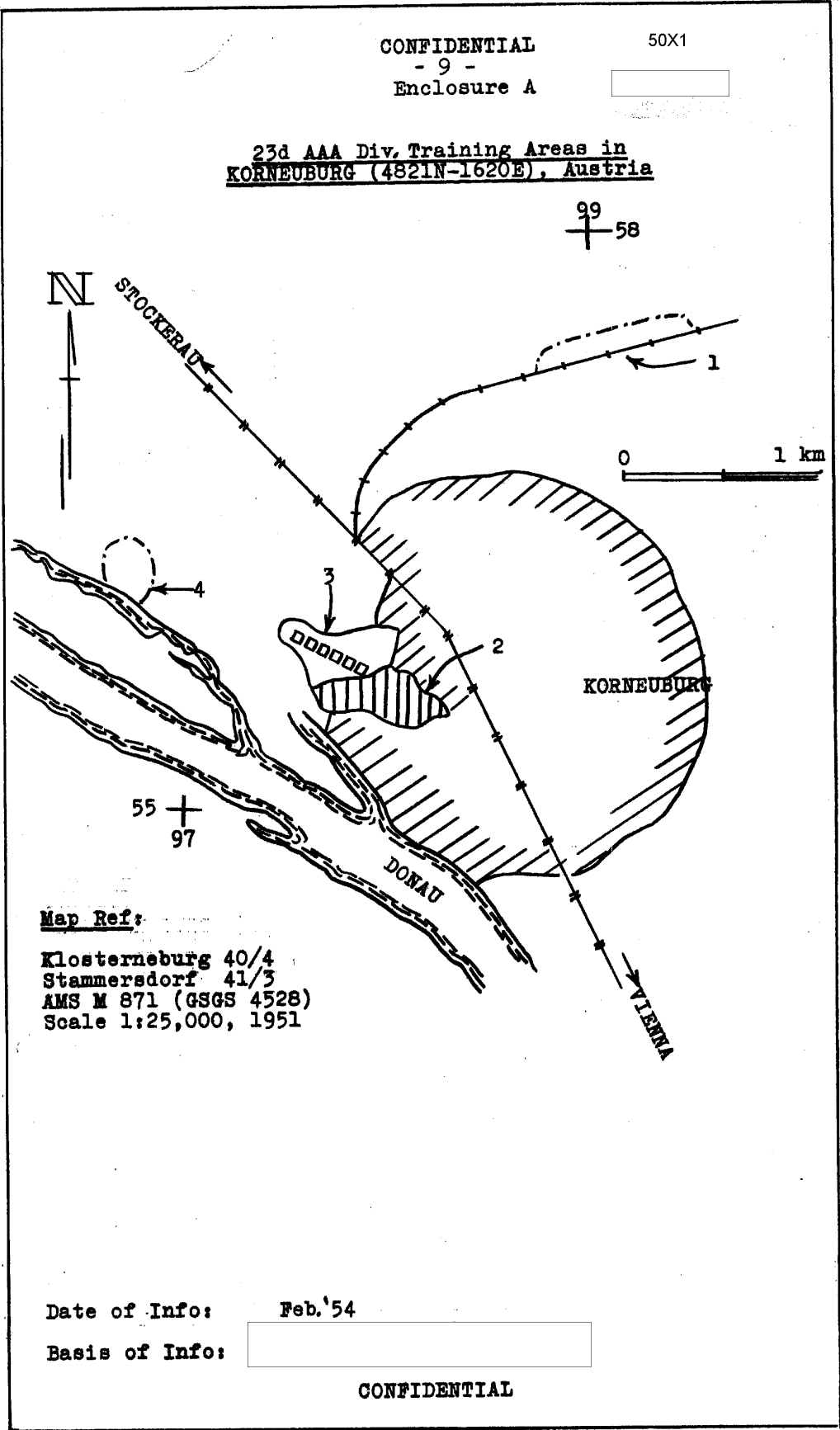
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1 Encl:

- A. 23d AAA Div. Training Areas  
in KORNEUBURG, Austria

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Enclosure A

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23d AAA Div Training Areas in  
KORNEUBURG (4821N-1620E), Austria

LEGEND

1. Caserne area: occupied by the 64th AAA Regt, 23d AAA Div. Area was large enough to be used for all garrison training conducted by the regiment.
2. Training area: utilized by the 36th AAA Regt, 23d AAA Div, for almost all garrison training. [redacted] gun drill with the 37-mm (M1939) AAA gun, and chemical training with unidentified smoke pots.
3. Firing range: rebuilt on the site of a bombed and damaged firing range. Unknown number of firing points. Maximum range appeared to be approximately 400 yards. All targets were ground targets only. Source saw the 36th AAA Regt firing the 37-mm AAA gun with subcaliber device and the 12.7-mm DShK M1938 (Soviet) AA MG on this range. The 64th AAA Regt utilized the range for small arms firing, but [redacted] the 64th fired their AAA guns on this range, utilizing a subcaliber device.
4. Training area: utilized by [redacted], 23d AAA Div, for various garrison training subjects.

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